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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
PETITION TO ADD RULE 38(j),)	SUPREME COURT NO. R-
REGARDING ADMISSION TO)	
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA)	COMMENT TO PETITION TO ADD
)	RULE 38(j), REGARDING ADMISSION
)	TO THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA
)	

Pursuant to Rule 28(D), Rules of the Supreme Court, the undersigned respectfully submits this Comment for the Court's Consideration.

As an Arizonan, a Sun Devil (B.S., 2007), a Wildcat (J.D., 2010), a member of the Arizona State Bar, and a military spouse to a fellow Arizonan who is serving our country as an active-duty Army Infantry Officer with the 82nd Airborne, I encourage the Arizona Supreme Court to adopt Rule 38(j) regarding admission to the State Bar of Arizona for qualified military spouse attorneys.

Military spouses become accustomed to moving their family every 2-3 years. This process is difficult, but it becomes even more so when you are a military spouse attorney. After dedicating years to a legal education, finding meaningful employment is a constant, uphill battle — including licensing restrictions, fears about an inability to make long-term commitments to employers, and lack of professional connections in new communities.

While I know many military spouse attorneys who have taken multiple bar exams—a new exam in each state where they’ve been stationed—in order to practice, this is a time consuming and expensive process. Due to the frequency and inflexibility of a spouse's military orders, it often does not make sense to pursue admission in a new state. I can attest first-hand to experiencing some of these challenges.

When I passed the Bar Exam and was admitted to the Arizona Bar in 2010, my husband was temporarily stationed at Ft. Benning, GA, finishing training that would potentially take as little as one month or up to six months. A few months after I took a position and began working in Washington, D.C., he received orders to Ft. Bragg, NC, and shortly thereafter, was deployed to Afghanistan. Upon his return from Afghanistan, my husband will likely have only a few months left before receiving orders to a new duty station. I considered applying for bar admission to North Carolina, but as a new attorney, I do not qualify for comity (NC’s version of admission by motion), and the amount of time it would take to study, take, pass, and become admitted to the North Carolina Bar would leave me with less than a year to find a job and practice before starting the process over again when my husband receives his new orders. If options like Rule 38(j) were available in North Carolina, or the next state where he is stationed, it would most definitely provide us with a better quality of life, and would enable me to pursue meaningful career opportunities to support my family while my husband serves our country.

Spouse employment is important—and often urgently necessary—to military families, and ultimately plays a role in the ability of our armed forces to retain quality service members. Rule 38(j) recognizes the unique challenges faced by military spouse attorneys who want to continue their legal careers while supporting their spouses’ service to our country. I hope the Arizona Supreme Court seizes this opportunity to support military families.

By: _____
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